

Seven Reasons To Love The Lost

Text : **Matthew 22: 34-40 ; Mark 10: 17-27**

S#1.

- A. The lessons we have in the assembly of the church are for our instruction. Each lesson builds on the one before leading to a spiritual objective.**

S#2.

1. We started the year establishing the need to set goals for God; we need to achieve.
2. We never know when Jesus will return so we need to be ready to meet Him.
3. Because we don't know when Jesus will return, it's urgent that we be about our task.
4. God loves lost people and desires that they all be saved.

S#3.

- B. With this lesson we will look at seven reasons why we should also love the lost.**

1. Human beings are made in the image of God.
2. The two greatest commandments require us to love the lost.
3. All people who die outside of Christ are lost for all eternity.
4. Our God has an abiding love for lost people.
5. Jesus demonstrated a sincere love for lost people.
6. The Apostle Paul manifested a genuine love for lost people.
7. The nature of salvation by grace through faith demands that we love the lost.

I. All human beings are made in the image of God.

S#4.

- A. The creation account states that men are created in the image of God.**

1. **Gen. 1: 26-27** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** God created man in His own image. in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **S#5.**
2. Adam .. The very first man that God created in His image sinned and all since.

- B. Even after man sinned, God still said that man was in the image of God.**

S#6.

1. After the universal flood God still declared that Man was in His image.
Gen. 9: 6 – Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.
2. Thus, sin does not cause man to no longer be in God's image.
3. Everyone has a measure of dignity/value simply because he is human .. image bearer

C. Jesus taught that the soul of man is beyond value.**S#7.**

1. **Mark 8: 36-37** For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? **37** “For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
2. The value of a human souls is beyond value; Jesus (*God in flesh*) died for them.

D. Every human being has an immortal soul.

1. Whether a person is middle class or has just stuck a needle in his arm, he has a soul that will live forever.
2. All humans are made in the image of God so it is awesome to be human.
3. We must love the lost because their souls go on for ever and ever and ever.

II. The greatest commandment tells us to love the lost for God’s sake and the second greatest commandment tells us to love them for their sake.**S#8.****A. Matthew 22: 36-39 Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?****S#9.**

37 And He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the great and foremost commandment. **39** The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

B. We love the lost because we love God and we desire Him to be glorified.**S#10.**

1. To love God is to love His glory. (*Love the lost for God’s sake.*)
 - a. Lovers of God want to see God glorified. (*We are observed by a cloud of witnesses.*)
 - b. Lost people don’t glorify God; they don’t pray, give thanks or worship God.
 - c. Thus, love for God compels us to bring others to glorify Him, to worship God .
2. God’s mercy is the pinnacle of God’s glory.
 - a. God’s mercy brings Him more glory than His justice.
 - b. The cross is more glorious than Hell. *The mercy of God is magnified by saving.*
 - c. **Luke 15: 10** ... The angels of Heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents.

C. 2nd command is love your neighbor as yourself. (Love them for their sake.)**S#11.**

1. Loving a neighbor necessitates that they have the same saving relationship w/ God.
2. If someone would ask you, “What is the most important thing in your life ?”
 - a. Worldly people would tell them ... my house, job, car, boat, spouse ... **earthly**
 - b. **If you’re a Christian**, you would say, “My relationship with Christ/God.”

- * 3. Knowing what you know about the love, mercy, glory and rewards of God, **S#12.**
the “Golden Rule” would demand that you want them to have what you have.

III. All people who die outside of Christ will most certainly perish.**S#13.****S#14.****A. The scriptures are clear and unambiguous about the doctrine of judgment.**

1. Regardless of where they are born or when they live, everybody sins.

Rom. 3: 10, 23 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. Sinners perish, but there is salvation available. **However**, it is ONLY in Christ Jesus.

- a. **Rom. 6: 23** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life IN Christ Jesus our Lord.

S#15.

- b. **II Tim. 2: 10** – ... I endure all things ... so that they also may obtain the salvation which is IN Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

B. Spiritual death is eternal separation from God in a place called Hell.**S#16.**

II Thes. 1: 6-10 ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His **S#17.**
mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

C. We must love ALL the lost because they will ALL be eternally lost if we don't.**IV. Our sovereign God has deep, abiding and genuine love for the lost.****S#18.****A. God does not want for anyone to be separated from Him.**

1. **II Pet. 3: 9** – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, **S#19.**
but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

2. **I Tim. 2: 3-4** This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

S#20.**B. God is repulsed by the idea of anyone being condemned to eternal destruction.**

1. **Ezek. 18: 23** – Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord God, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?
2. Those who love God will desire what God desires ..

Thus, we must desire to save the lost and act on our desire.

V. Jesus demonstrated a sincere love for the lost.**S#21.****A. Mark 10: 17-27 ... Jesus loved the rich young ruler.****S#22.**

1. Jesus didn't dispute the young man's efforts to keep the law or explain grace to him.
2. Vs. 21 – Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

S#23.**B. Jesus felt a genuine love for the lost. (cf. Lk 13: 34 ... gather your children as hen)**

1. **Luke 19: 41** – When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it,
2. It broke Jesus' heart to see people being lost ... even those who would kill Him.

C. What do we feel when we see the lost ?

1. Are we just repulsed by the drunk staggering down the street ? Or do we feel for him.
2. When is the last time we wept for the lost ?
We weep over their coffin, but that is too late.

D. Are we not called to walk in the footsteps of our Lord, to conform to His stature?**VI. The Apostle Paul manifested a deep love for the lost.****S#24.****A. Rom. 9: 1-3** I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, **2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,**S#25.**

1. The Apostle grieved because of the lost condition of his relatives and countrymen.
2. He could not take their punishment, but he would be willing to go to Hell for them.
3. I might do that for one of my children, but not for others. *He felt a burden for lost.*

B. II Cor. 5: 14, 20 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, **S#26.** that one died for all, therefore all died; **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

1. The Apostle says it is so important that we must beg lost people to accept Christ.
2. One reason people don't respond to us is that we are too tutorial about sharing Jesus.
3. The scripture explains that we must have such a passion that we would beg sinners.

C. The Apostle exemplifies the love of God and of Jesus for the lost. We must follow.

VII. The nature of the gospel of grace demands that we reach out.**S#27.****A. The Apostle felt an obligation**

1. **Rom. 1: 14-16** I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both **S#28.** to the wise and to the foolish. **15** So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. **16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
2. Like the Apostle, we have an obligation to share salvation with the lost.
3. Greeks and barbarians ... we preach to the educated and the unsophisticated.

B. The Apostle felt a responsibility, but also an opportunity in sharing Christ.

1. **I Cor. 9: 16-17** For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for **S#29.** I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. **17** For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. (*Even if I don't want to I must.*)
2. You and I are given that same stewardship.
Mark 16: 15 – And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

C. If we have received God's grace we have a debt to those who haven't.

1. **Act. 4: 18-21** And when they had summoned them, they commanded them **S#30.** not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; **20** for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."
2. Today the court of public opinion is telling us that it is not politically correct **S#31.** to confront people about their sin and urge them to repent, but our answer must be the same as that of Peter and John ... **We cannot help but tell about our Lord.**

CONCLUSION :**A. Two suggestions for growing in our love for the lost.****S#32.**

1. Grow in our love for God. *Immerse ourselves in His word, constantly on mind.*
2. Personalize these truth. *The lost is abstract; put a name on it .. Bill is in image.*

S#33.**B. I pray we all see the direct correlation between loving God and loving the lost.****S#34.****C. Everyone is a missionary or a mission field .. If you're a mission field, come now****S#35.** ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Matthew 22: 34-40**

34 But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. **35** One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, **36** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" **37** And He said to him, " 'You shall love the lord your god with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' **38** "This is the great and foremost commandment. **39** "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** " On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Mark 10: 17-27

17 As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" **18** And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. **19** "You know the commandments, 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" **20** And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." **21** Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." **22** But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

23 And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, " How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!" **24** The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! **25** " It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." **26** They were even more astonished and said to Him, " Then who can be saved?" **27** Looking at them, Jesus said, " With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."